



## City Hires New Chief

**Ekene Ikeme**  
The city of Alameda has hired Nicholas "Nick" Luby as the new Chief of the Alameda Fire Department (AFD) effective Oct. 18. Alameda City Manager Eric Levitt announced the hiring on Sept. 15.

"I'm excited that incoming Chief Luby will be joining the City of Alameda as our Fire Chief. He has extensive experience in fire service and is a trusted leader. I believe he'll bring strong leadership skills to the Alameda Fire Department," stated Levitt.

Luby has 23 years of fire service experience, most recently as the Deputy Chief of Operations with the Oakland Fire Department (OFD). He has worked for OFD for 21 years. Luby has also served as an Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, trained boat operator and Swiftwater Rescue Technician.

"I am very excited to join the Alameda team and utilize my 23 years of experience to support and advance the Alameda Fire Department and the greater Alameda community," said Luby. "As Fire Chief, I'll work to ensure that we are unwavering in our responsibility to professionally serve our community 24/7/365."

Luby has also served on several task forces and organizations. He was an active participant in the City of Oakland's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, is the former president of the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association — Operations Section and has served as the Northern California Representative for CalChiefs' Operations Section.

The city posted a job listing to attract applicants for the open position. The job listing stated the city's ideal candidate for fire chief is someone "known for their empowering



City of Alameda

Nicholas "Nick" Luby will take over for Rick Zombeck as Chief of the Alameda Fire Department Fire effective Oct. 18. Luby was most recently Deputy Chief of Operations with the Oakland Fire Department.

leadership style along with a high level of professionalism" among other qualifications. Luby's compensation is not known, but according to the listing, the salary range for the Fire Chief is \$222,002 to \$269,846 annually based on a 40-hour work week. The city stopped receiving new applications on May 3.

Luby will take over the reigns from interim Fire Chief Rick Zombeck who is retiring. Zombeck joined AFD as a firefighter in 1983. Prior to becoming a chief, Zombeck was active in the community as well as the Alameda Firefighters Association, serving a term as its treasurer.

Zombeck was appointed interim Fire Chief after previous Fire

Chief Ed Rodriguez went on medical leave in March 2020. Zombeck was named the acting Fire Chief when Rodriguez went on leave, but when Rodriguez announced his retirement in December 2020, Zombeck's title changed to interim Fire Chief.

This is the second time this year city officials have turned to a longtime Oakland public service employee to fill a high-ranking role. The city hired former Oakland Police Department (OPD) Deputy Chief Nishant Joshi as the Alameda Police Department Police Chief on May 17. Joshi had worked for OPD since 2000. He started his new role as APD Police Chief on June 8.

## Gov. Newsom Signs Legislation to Boost Housing Supply

**Sun Staff Reports**  
SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom signed bipartisan legislation Sept. 16 to expand housing production in California, streamline housing permitting and increase density in neighborhoods across the state. The suite of bills also will help address the interrelated problems of climate change and housing affordability by promoting denser housing closer to major employment hubs — a critical element in limiting California's greenhouse gas emissions.

"The housing affordability crisis is undermining the California Dream for families across the state, and threatens our long-term growth and prosperity," said Newsom. "Making a meaningful impact on this crisis will take bold investments, strong collaboration across sectors and political courage from our leaders and communities to do the right thing and build housing for all."

California officials also announced the "California Housing Accelerator" — a \$1.75 billion component of Newsom's "California Comeback Plan" to expedite construction of an estimated 6,500 shovel-ready affordable multi-family units; projects have been stalled due to constraints on the supply of tax-exempt bonds and low-income housing tax credits.

The California Comeback Plan will invest \$22 billion in housing and the unsheltered which will lead to the creation of some 84,000 new affordable homes for Californians,

including 44,000 new housing units and treatment beds for people exiting being unsheltered.

The governor also signed California State Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins' (D-San Diego) SB 9, the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act to increase housing supply, which President Joe Biden recently commended. The HOME Act facilitates the process for homeowners to build a duplex or split their current residential lot, expanding housing options for people of all incomes that will create more opportunities for homeowners to add units on their existing properties. It includes provisions to prevent the displacement of existing renters and protect historic districts, fire-prone areas and environmental quality.

Atkins said "SB 9 will open up opportunities for homeowners to help ease our state's housing shortage, while still protecting tenants from displacement."

SB 10 by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) creates a voluntary process for local governments to access a streamlined zoning process for new multi-unit housing near transit or in urban infill areas, with up to 10 units per parcel. The legislation simplifies the CEQA requirements for upzoning, giving local leaders another tool to voluntarily increase density and provide affordable rental opportunities to more Californians.

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## Legacy Home Tour to Showcase Architecture of Leonardville Heritage Area



Photo by Scott Brady

1930s storybook style house.

**Karin Kim Jensen**

For four decades, the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS) has offered its annual Legacy Home Tour to increase public awareness and appreciation of Alameda's range of historic architecture.

This year, because of the pandemic, the September 26th event will be a self-guided walking tour that highlights the architecture of the Leonardville-Bronze Coast neighborhood. Docents stationed along the route will guide visitors and answer questions. Past AAPS President, Denise Brady, will narrate the pre-recorded audio tour.

**What You'll See**

The tour highlights the architecture in and near the Leonardville Heritage Area, an area defined by Clinton Avenue, Grand Street, San Antonio, and Chestnut Street.

Brady says, "What makes this tour a particular pleasure for walking is that there is an amazing variety of architectural styles concentrated within six blocks. Included are Victorian, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Art Deco, and pre- and post-World War 2 era homes"

The tour with the app describes roughly 80 houses. If you purchase

the printed guidebook, you will read 50 entries. However, some describe more than one home because there are couplet or triplet houses that are nearly identical.

**How To Attend**

This year's Tour will be held on September 26th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased on Eventbrite.com by searching for "Leonardville and Beyond Architectural Self-Guided Tour." Tickets will also be available at 891 Union Street on the day of the event. More information at: <https://alameda-legacy-home-tour.org/>.

Each ticket enables you to receive a smartphone/tablet app from the Apple Store or Google Play that contains the tour with narration and a link to a downloadable PDF of the tour booklet. The app can be downloaded to different devices in your family group.

You have until October 24th to purchase the app. Once purchased, you can take the walking tour at any time on your own. Sunday, September 26th, there will be costumed docents along the tour route to act as guides. Allow 90 minutes to two hours. Funds raised benefit the AAPS.

## Police Investigating Home Shooting

**Sun Staff Reports**

Alameda Police Department (APD) received multiple calls of what sounded like gunfire in the area around Encinal and Park Avenue at 7:07 a.m. Monday, Sept. 20.

APD officers began patrolling the area and discovered several bullet holes on the front side of a home on the 1300 block of Park Avenue. It was undetermined how many bullet holes were discovered. Police say the home was vacant at

the time and there are no reports of any injuries.

Police barricaded the area to allow investigators and crime scene technicians to search the scene for shell casings and any other evidence. Investigators also spoke to neighbors of the home to find any further information. Park Avenue was reopened several hours later.

This is the second reported shooting in Alameda in a little over 30 days. On Aug. 17, APD

received a report of shots fired in the 100 block of Brush Street around 2:27p.m. Officers discovered that two groups of people in two vehicles were engaged in an altercation that led to gunfire. No injured persons have been located.

APD said the investigation is ongoing, and no additional details are available as of Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Anyone with information is asked to call APD's Violent Crimes Unit at 337-8340.

## Service Award Nominations Open

**Sun Staff Reports**

The City of Alameda seeks nominations for exceptional Alamedans who have made tremendous contributions to the community, particularly in advancing racial justice or responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Nominations for the 2021 Community Service Awards are now open.

Nominations may come from anyone in the community and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m., next Thursday, Sept. 30.

Nominations are accepted for the following nine categories:

**Community Service Jim Franz Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes extraordinary, long-time commitment and service to the community of Alameda over a period of 25 or more years.

**Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award** recognizes extraordinary service to the community of Alameda over a period of 10 or more years.

**Community Service Individual**

**Award** recognizes acts that involve any activity that made a difference for the Alameda community.

**Community Service Group Award** recognizes acts that involve any activity that made a difference for the Alameda community by a group consisting of two or more people.

**Community Service Non-Profit Board Member Award** recognizes service on the Board of an Alameda non-profit for at least two years.

**Community Service Non-Profit Organization Award** recognizes an outstanding non-profit that has made Alameda a better place to live over a period of three or more years.

**Community Service Youth Award** recognizes the outstanding commitment and contributions made by youth to their community. Two awards will be given.

**Community Service Businessperson Award** recognizes the outstanding contributions by a business person in Alameda in support of critical social services (youth, food security, health and wellbeing, employment training, etc.).

**Community Service Business Award** recognizes the outstanding contributions by a business in Alameda in support of critical social services (youth, food security, health and wellbeing, employment training, etc.).

With the exception of Business/Businessperson, nominees must be serving the community without pay or compensation. Submit a separate nomination form per category. Nominators may submit more than one nomination, and nominations may come from anyone in the community. Members of the Social Service Human Relations Board, employees of the City of Alameda, and winners from the past five years are not eligible to be nominated.

For questions, assistance in submitting nominations, or to request a printed nomination form, contact Eric Fonstein at [efonstein@alameda-ca.gov](mailto:efonstein@alameda-ca.gov) or 747-6895.

## The 'Second Empire' in Alameda

In 1891, the Croll family bought the Britt Hotel and lent the building the name we call it today: Croll's, which is both an Alameda Historical Monument and a California State Historical Landmark, pictured at right. Homes in the Second Empire style, also have an Italianate (or Stick-style) flavor with square decorative window crowns, brackets and single-story porches. Learn more about Second Empire architecture on page 12.



File photo

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Betty Young

**Alameda Sun Almanac**

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Today	6:58	19:06
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Sept. 25	6:59	19:02
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Sept. 27	7:01	18:59
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