



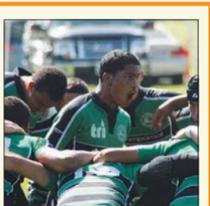
Vol. 13 No. 18
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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:15	17:30
Jan. 31	07:14	17:31
Feb. 1	07:13	17:32
Feb. 2	07:13	17:33
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Feb. 4	07:11	17:35
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Dennis Evanosky

A fire truck passes the future site of the new Fire Station No. 3 at Buena Vista Avenue and Hibbard Street. The city hopes to build the station at this intersection and an emergency operations center on an adjoining property on Grand Street.

Planning Puts Response Center Architect on Notice

Dennis Evanosky

At last Monday's meeting members of the Planning Board told the city that it needs to make design changes to the two-story, 3,640-square-foot emergency operations center it hopes to build at 1809 Grand St. The city was hoping to begin construction of the center this spring.

Planning Board members and some neighbors are questioning whether the building's design fits with the residential neighborhood at Grand Street and Buena Vista Avenue.

The city also plans to build a replacement for Fire Station No. 3 on an adjoining lot on Grand Street.

The Planning Board approved the site plan for the center by a 5-1 vote; board member John Knox White cast the lone dissenting vote; board member Mike Henneberry did not attend the meeting.

However, board members sent architect Chris Ford and his company Brown, Reynolds, Watford Architects back to the drawing board, questioning items like the size of the building's windows and the small number of parking spaces that Ford's design allows.

Had the Planning Commission members signed off on the plans in their entirety, their approval would have signified that they agreed the project was "compatible and harmonious with the design and use of the surrounding area." And that "the project is designed to provide an attractive building, screen on-site parking areas and complement the landscape design of adjoining properties."

"This thing is going to look like a giant, walled fortress in the middle of a historic residential neighborhood."

— John Knox White
Planning Board member

Knox White disagreed, saying that "this thing is going to look like a giant, walled fortress in the middle of a historic residential neighborhood."

The planned structures will upgrade the city's current emergency operations center and Fire Station No. 3 at 1709 Grand St. The current operations center is in the basement of Alameda Police Department.

Seismic concerns led the city to move firefighters out of the 90-year-old Fire Station No. 3 and into rented quarters next door to the tune of \$3,500 a month. The fire station is now only home to Engine 3. Beyond earthquake concerns the city also contends that the station's bay is too small to hold more modern trucks or engines.

It remains unclear where funding for the emergency operations center and Fire Station No. 3 will come from. The city made pinpointing the funds for these projects in Sacramento part of Don Perata's assignment when it hired him last month ("City Hires Perata," Dec. 6, 2013).

Contact Dennis Evanosky at editor@alamedasun.com.

School Board Mulls Options for ACLC

Michele Ellison
The Alamedan

At last Tuesday's meeting, members of Alameda's Board of Education considered which campus or campuses they think the Alameda Community Learning Center (ACLC) should call home next year.

School district staff is asking for the board's permission to offer the 18-year-old district-created charter school space on three separate campuses: Wood Middle School, the former Woodstock Elementary School and Encinal High School. Alternatively, they are asking board members to consider two other options — adding five portables to the Wood campus in order to keep the charter school there, or moving the entire school to Woodstock, along with its sister school, Nea Community Learning Center (NCLC).

The district is legally required to provide preliminary classroom space to its three charter schools by Feb. 1. (The Bay Area School of Enterprise charter high school, which is leaving at the end of this school year, had opted to sign a lease instead of going through

the traditional process.) ACLC educates about 300 of Alameda's roughly 1,100 charter school students, who in total make up about 10 percent of the district's total enrollment.

District staffers want to move ACLC — or shrink its presence on the Wood campus — to make room for new programs Wood plans to implement as part of a restructuring plan. Since Wood has failed for four years to make test score targets required under the federal No Child Left Behind law, the school's leaders were required to consider a host of options that included restructuring, firing teachers, submitting to state control or becoming a charter school. (The law applies to schools that receive supplemental federal aid because 40 percent or more of their students come from low-income families.)

The former Chipman Middle School, which was faced with similar choices in 2008, was transformed into a charter school. Wood's leaders want to refocus that school's curriculum around science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) and to reduce class sizes, changes that will require five more classrooms than Wood is already using, district staffers said in a presentation on the proposal that will also be offered Tuesday.

An emotional meeting on Jan. 14 brought to the surface some brewing resentments between the charter's families and the ones at their current host campus. Parents and some of the charter school's staff who had fought the move and dismissed the Wood space as inadequate when the district offered it last year told board members they had invested more than \$100,000 in making it suitable for their use and that they didn't want to be forced to move again.

ACLC was moved last year from the Encinal High School campus, its home of 17 years, to make space for the district's new Junior Jets middle school magnet program. The program was billed as a non-charter middle school alternative for West End families and one of several "choice" programs the district has put in place in an effort to grow enrollment.

In addition to a new educational focus and smaller class sizes, a restructured Wood Middle School would implement a professional learning communities program that Superintendent Kirsten Vital unsuccessfully sought to mandate

District staff is asking for the board's permission to offer the 18-year-old district-created charter school space on three separate campuses.

district-wide as part of a contract deal with teachers.

The new STEAM program would be implemented in the 2014-15 school year for what district officials expect will be a smaller number of students than Wood now educates.

The renewed battle over housing the middle and high school charter is only the latest in a series of skirmishes over space that have taken place as the district restructures and expands school options while simultaneously eliminating spaces it considered too dangerous to use or costly to maintain.

In 2010 Alameda Unified abandoned the former Miller Elementary School site on Singleton Avenue to avoid what staff characterized as hundreds of thousands of dollars in water and sewer line upgrades. This forced the district to move Island High School to the Woodstock campus and the Woodstock Child Development Center preschool, which had also been housed at Miller, to the former Longfellow Elementary School campus.

The following year, district staff asked the NCLC charter to split its program across two campuses, which its leaders grudgingly agreed to do; its grade school program shares the former Chipman Middle School campus with its successor, The Academy of Alameda Middle School, while NCLC's middle and high school students remained on the Longfellow campus, which they share with the Woodstock Child Development Center.

In 2012, district leaders shuttered and fenced off much of the Historic Alameda High School campus, saying it would collapse in a major earthquake and that its seismic safety shortcomings prohibited students of any age to be housed there. The district moved its adult school classes to the Woodstock campus and district headquarters into leased office space.

Read more Alameda news at <http://webh.it/alamedasun>.

Alamedan Murdered in Oakland

Sun staff reports

A 25-year-old Alameda man died early Tuesday, Jan. 28, from gunshot wounds suffered the previous night at a drugstore parking lot in Oakland, police said.

The shooting occurred around 9:06 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27 in the parking lot of the Walgreen's store at 3434 High St., police said. Officers found the victim with multiple gunshot wounds, including one to the face. His name is being withheld pending notification of relatives. The victim was unresponsive when police arrived on the scene. He was taken to Highland Hospital where he died at 1:35 a.m., Tuesday.

OPD Sgt. Randy Brandwood said two people in the parking lot confronted the victim before he was shot. The two men then fled the scene in a vehicle. Brandwood said police have not determined the motive for the shooting and don't know why the man was in the parking lot. Even though the man was living in Alameda, police said he has lived in Oakland previously and still has ties to the city.

The killing was Oakland's ninth homicide of the year. Last year at this time there were seven homicides. Police and Crime Stoppers of Oakland are offering up to \$10,000 as a reward for information leading to an arrest. Anyone with information may call police at 238-3821 or Crime Stoppers at 777-8572.

Local Deaths

Alameda Loses Poet Laureate

Mary Roberta Rudge
March 30, 1928 – Jan. 19, 2014

Mary Rudge passed away peacefully at the age of 85. She fought a brave battle with cancer, and died, in her own home, to be with our Lord, at last.

She had a rich and wonderful life, and raised seven children: Louis Jordan Rudge, Robin Davidson, Mary Star Rudge, Caroline Rudge, Alice Mobarry, Glen Rudge, Diana Rudge and many grandchildren.

Mary's life brought joy and happiness, to all who met her. She is the city of Alameda's first Poet Laureate, an artist, and loved to travel the world. Her travels took her to China,



Sri Lanka, Ireland, Hungary, Austria and many other places.

She wrote poetry to try to help with world peace, and to give a voice to the farm workers, and many people, who are seldom heard. Her efforts were tireless, and her friends are many.

Greer Family Mortuary FD 1408
www.greermortuary.com
(510) 865-3755

LOCAL: Page 6

File photo
Mary Rudge read inspirational poems during Alameda city council meetings on certain occasions.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda Point Hearing on Tap

The City Council will hold a public hearing during next Tuesday's meeting to discuss certifying Alameda Point's final environmental impact report (EIR). In addition the Council will discuss changes to the city's General Plan as these changes relate to Alameda Point; amendments to the zoning code, as well as a master infrastructure plan to accommodate redevelopment at the Point.

In June 2013, the Navy conveyed 510 acres of the 878 total acres to be transferred to the city. At that time the City Council directed city staff to complete the EIR and make certain that the report complied with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the city's General Plan.

"Over the course of the last 18 months, the Alameda community, city staff, the Planning Board and City Council have undertaken an extensive community planning effort to complete the many required documents," City Manager John Russo stated in his report to the City Council.

At its Jan. 13 meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council certify the EIR and approve the draft General Plan and zoning ordinance amendments.

The Tuesday, Feb. 4 meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave.

APD to Host License-Plate Reader forum

The Alameda Police Department (APD) will host a public forum to discuss the department's policy for using automated license plate readers. The forum will be held at 6:30 p.m., next Monday, Feb. 3, at the Main Library, 1550 Oak St.

The forum will include presentations by APD, the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

A public discussion, along with a question-answer period will follow the presentations.

"I encourage all interested Alamedans to review the information prior to attending the forum," said APD Chief Paul Roller. The information is available at <http://alamedaca.gov/police/license-plate-reader-debate>.

This online information includes policy papers, a privacy impact assessment, as well as ACLU's report, "You Are Being Tracked" and a KQED clip of a radio forum about license-plate readers.

Singulex in the Running

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (EDA) recently announced that Alameda-based Singulex, Inc., is among the 16 finalists for its annual East Bay Innovations Awards. Singulex develops and manufactures an advanced diagnostic test for early detection of cardiovascular disease, the number one cause of death in the United States.

The awards recognize companies in the areas of clean technology, advanced manufacturing, food, information/communication technology, life sciences, engineering and design. Singulex is a finalist for the life science award, which Penumbra, Inc., another Alameda-based company, won last year.

EDA will announce the winners at a gala on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Oakland's Fox Theater.