



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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**Alameda Sun
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Today	07:17	19:18
March 18	07:16	19:19
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Dennis Evanosky

Members of the City Council and the community look on as an operator demonstrates the boat hoist at Alameda Marina last Friday. The fate of this hoist has concerned the boating community. Pacific Shop, Inc., the company that owns the marina, has assured boaters that it has no plans to remove the hoist.

Tour Visits Hot Spots

Dennis Evanosky

Part one

Members of the City Council and interested community members braved strong winds and torrential downpours to get a first-hand look at what the future holds for the city's northern waterfront. The caravan-style tour wended its way to

Alameda Marina, Encinal Terminal, Alameda Landing and North Housing at Estuary Park.

At each stop city staff gave updates on development plans. The briefings also included comments by the developer. The packet provided by the city for the tour also included written descriptions of the projects

that the developers provided. Island Yacht Club offered those in attendance a comfortable, dry indoor meeting space at Alameda Marina.

During the Alameda Marina stop on the tour, a boat owner brought up the contentious issue of the possibility that development might spell the end of the marina's boat hoist. The developer not only assured those in attendance that the boat hoist would stay, but invited everyone to witness the hoist in action.

Visits to Encinal Terminal and Alameda Landing offered the public a first-hand look at what the developers hoped to achieve. The city's planning director Andrew Thomas pointed out that the city is relying on the 234 homes planned for Encinal Landing to fulfill a share of the city's 1,725-unit obligation to fulfill the city's regional housing needs allocation set by the state.

In upcoming weeks the Alameda Sun will take a detailed look at each of these projects, including Alameda Landing and North Housing at Alameda Point.

Homes Demolished at Point



Story and photo by Richard Bangert

The demolition of 16 former Navy apartment buildings at Alameda Point has begun. On Jan. 5, the City Council awarded a \$547,000 contract to Asbestos Management Group of Oakland. The buildings are on Orion Street, West Tower Avenue, Stardust Place and Pearl Harbor Road. Demolition began this week and is expected to be completed within 60 days. Alameda Point base reuse funds are paying for the demolition.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

LWVA Hosts Public Officials Confab

The League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) invites all Alamedans to meet their public officials at its annual social mixer and fundraiser Thursday, March 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle, 3195 McCartney Road.

Participants can "speed date" many of their elected and appointed representatives in four-minute, one-on-one conversations with representatives of the City Council, Board of Education, Alameda Heath Care Board, BART Board, the police and fire chiefs and city staff. They will also enjoy delicious appetizers along with wine and beer from a no-host bar while bidding on an exciting array of raffle and silent auction items contributed by local businesses and LWVA members.

Navy Hosts Meeting

The Navy's Alameda Point Restoration Advisory Board meets this evening, Thursday, March 17. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at 950 W. Mall Square on Alameda Point. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear updates about the Navy's cleanup and talk directly with the Navy and regulatory agency representatives.

Job Fair at EHS

High school students in Alameda can learn about college, career, summer jobs, and internships from 3 to 5 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, March 18, at the second annual Alameda Unified

School District Career Pathways and Youth Job Fair. The fair will be held at the Encinal High School gymnasium, 210 Central Ave.

Students will have opportunities to apply for summer jobs and paid internships in local agencies and businesses, talk to representatives from the Peralta Community Colleges and explore opportunities in vocational education. The school district will also provide a resume help desk for students and information on the district's Career Technical Education programs

Coast Guard Celebrates Women in Military

On Saturday, April 2, the United States Coast Guard will honor the military service of all women of all eras. An honor guard from the Oakland Military Institute will welcome the guests. Women veterans from the Yountville Home, some of whom served in World War II, will attend.

Mary King, vice president of human resources at Pacific Gas and Electric and West Point graduate, and Chief Warrant Officer Beth Slade, commanding officer of Coast Guard Station Golden Gate, will make presentations. A complimentary luncheon for all women service members will follow.

The event begins at noon at the Gresham Conference Center in building 4 on Coast Guard Island. Seating is limited; guests are asked to RSVP by Sunday, March 20, by email to neitanovo@gmail.com. When you RSVP, register with your name as printed on your ID, protocol for gaining entrance to Coast Guard Island.

Commission Looks at Planned Parks

Dennis Evanosky

Part one

Last Thursday, members of the Recreation and Park Commission took a tour of five current and upcoming park projects: Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, Encinal Boat Launch Facility, the Alameda Point Sports Project, Krusi Park and Estuary Park.

Once completed, Jean Sweeney Open Space Park will become the city's largest park. Located on the site of the former Alameda Beltline Railroad property bounded by Constitution Way, Atlantic Avenue and Sherman Street, the park's amenities will include a trail and bike loop, public art and a plaza. The park's namesake, the late Jean Sweeney, researched the site, and her work led to the city's acquiring the site at its 1924 sale price of \$30,000.

The city plans to renovate the Encinal Boat Launch Facility, located at 190 Central Ave., just west of Encinal High School, with a new dock, brand-new restrooms, a fish-cleaning table and a repaved parking lot. The city received a \$300,000 planning grant from the state of California to fund the park's design and apply for the required permits.

When completed the Alameda Point Sports Complex, located on West Redline Avenue just west of the Main Gate, will include a shoreline trail along the Oakland Estuary,

a football-lacrosse field, a mountain-bike skills park, as well as four baseball fields. The park will incorporate the existing gymnasium and skate park.

Krusi Park, named for Ida and Hermann Krusi who donated the land that park stands on to the city in 1937, is bounded by Otis Drive, Mound Street, High Street and Calhoun Street. The city plans to replace the existing park building to better assist Otis School, located next door. Plans also include rentable space for public and private functions, concession facilities, as well as improved storage and restrooms for the park's patrons.

The commissioners also visited Estuary Park on their tour. This eight-acre park is located at Singleton and Mosley avenues. The U.S. Navy once used this land as athletic fields. Plans for this real estate include landscape design to renovate and construct a youth baseball field, a synthetic regulation-size athletic field and a playground. The city also plans to install field and park lighting, pathways, as well as a pre-fabricated restroom and concession building. The park's landscape would also include group picnic areas.

Over the next two weeks the Alameda Sun will give its readers a detailed look at each of these parks and the impact they will have on the Alameda community.

Local Fails to Appear in Court — Again

Dennis Evanosky

According to a March 8 filing at the United States Bankruptcy Court in Oakland, John Nelson Beck has failed to appear at a meeting of his creditors for a second time. Beck had a Feb. 9 date with the court, but disappeared some 30 minutes before the meeting was scheduled to begin. ("Alameda Man Disappears," Feb. 18; "Beck Still Missing As Case Unfolds," March 3).

The courts then rescheduled the meeting for March 8, a day that passed without Beck's presence in court.

Beck's troubles stem from a July 1, 2009, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) complaint claiming that he was selling unwary clients spurious get-rich-quick real-estate programs. On August 23, 2012, the federal court agreed and saddled Beck with a \$113 million judgement.

One month later, in September 2012, Beck filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. On Nov. 30, 2015, Beck converted that filing to Chapter 7. The court has now filed to dismiss the bankruptcy, leaving Beck vulnerable to his creditors.

On Saints, Shamrocks, and Subsistence Living

To the East End & Beyond

Robin Seeley

Try as we might, we couldn't conjure up the historic St. Patrick for the seventh monthly session of the Culinary Academy of Post Street. But another legendary figure miraculously appeared in his place, as the picture proves. The King of Rock 'n' Roll (Elvis Presley) was wary of sharing typical St. Patrick's Day festivities with children, however. He wisely steered us away from Irish beverages and tales of drunken revelry. Abby, Enzo, Farrah and Julian focused instead on the cuisine of the Emerald Isle. And yes, potatoes were prominent.

Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle because it gets lots of rain and is very green. That means plenty of grass for grazing cows. Therefore it's no surprise, as Irish food historian Brid Mahon has noted, that "cattle were the cornerstone of the economy." That's how the Irish got their corned beef and dairy products.

If cows provided the cornerstone, then the potato was the primary pillar. Legend has it that Sir Walter Raleigh planted the first spuds in Ireland in 1585, after they were introduced to Europe from Peru. Because potatoes provide a much higher yield than the previously prevalent grains, such as wheat, oats and barley, they quickly became the farmers' favorite.

It didn't hurt that they were healthy and delicious, too. Poor Irish people soon stopped cultivating any other crop and subsisted almost exclusively on potatoes and milk for centuries. They thrived on that limited diet. Indeed, potatoes propelled population growth to 8 million by 1845.

Because the Irish propagated potatoes by planting the "eyes" of the previous year's harvest, they created a "monoculture" of genetically identical plants. The lack of genetic diversity in their staple crop left it extremely vulnerable to a plague of epic propor-



Robin Seeley

Farrah, Julian, Enzo and Abby can confirm that reports of Elvis's death have been greatly exaggerated. The King returned to supervise the latest session of the Culinary Academy of Post Street.

When the potato blight hit in 1845, it turned previously flourishing fields into a "wide waste of putrefying vegetation," as Father Mathew told the Irish Relief Commission.

That's one reason we have 80 million fellow Americans of Irish descent. They fled to the United States and Canada by the boatload to escape the widespread famine. One of the refugees hailed from the tiny village of Moneygall; Fulmoth Kearney, our president's great-great-grandfather. By 1850,

U.S. immigration records show that New York City had more Irish-born residents than Dublin.

To wrap their heads (and stomachs) around the notion of a diet based almost exclusively on dairy and potato products, the kids inspected two special food samplers and graded the individual items on a special report card. One sampler featured foods from the udder: butter, buttermilk, cottage cheese, cheese, cream, ice cream and yogurt.