

INSIDE



HOMETOWN NEWS

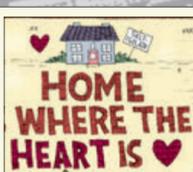
Fire Wire Page 2
Police Blotter Page 6

All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Updates throughout
Disease's impact can be felt in nearly every story this week.



OPINION

Letters to Editor Page 4
One thing that isn't shut down: Alameda's opinions



GOOD DEEDS
Online fundraiser Page 9
Local kids raise money for homeless during shutdown.



WEST END NEWS
Still open Page 10
Newly opened businesses adjust to new lifestyle.

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:03	19:26
March 27	7:02	19:27
Month 28	7:00	19:28
Month 29	6:59	19:29
Month 30	6:57	19:30
Month 31	6:56	19:31
April 1	6:54	19:32

A Message from Mayor Ashcraft

'We must work together to protect our community'

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

My highest priority as Mayor is the health and safety of our families and community members. Today, Alameda joins cities in the U.S. and around the world in confronting the greatest public health crisis of our time, the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, in the midst of the uncertainty surrounding this formidable threat, I am certain that Alamedans will rise to meet this challenge and protect our entire community. Here's what we must do.

We know from other countries that there are effective, and ineffective, ways to respond to this disease. Most critical to saving lives is practicing social distancing, frequent hand washing, self-quarantine if symptomatic and widespread testing.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has taken proactive steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 by directing all Californians to stay at home, except to seek essential services or work in essential businesses. Ignoring "stay-at-home" orders and congregating in large groups is dangerous and threatens the health and safety of everyone around us.

Alameda County Public Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan recently noted that Alameda County is seeing an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, including cases of community transmission. Dr. Pan believes the virus has been spreading throughout Alameda County since January and has likely infected thousands of County

☛ **MAYOR:** Page 3



Maurice Ramirez Photography

An employee with Alameda Theatre & Cineplex reconfigures the marquee not to announce the latest release, but to encourage locals to order take out from the adjoining Cinema Grill. The theater is closed at this time.

Most City of Alameda Public Meetings to Take Place Virtually

Sun Staff Reports

The regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting took place Monday, March 23. Members of the public can watch City of Alameda meetings via livestream and address board, committee or councilmembers during meetings remotely.

Several upcoming city meetings have been cancelled, including the Transportation Commission on March 25, the Civil Service Board on April 1, and the Open Government Commission on April 6. Check the city's website at www.alamedaca.gov for updates regarding meeting announcements and cancellations.

Last week, Governor Newsom announced a new Executive Order allowing Councilmembers to attend City Council meetings via teleconference. The next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. City Hall will not be open to the public for this meeting. Councilmembers may join by teleconference or in person, adhering to strict social distancing of at least six feet.

Members of the public can watch city meetings via Livestream at www.alamedaca.gov/agendas. To provide public comment during a meeting, send an email to clerk@alamedaca.gov.

gov, text a message to 747-4802, or leave a voicemail at 747-4802. Comments submitted during the meeting will be read into the record. Those submitted prior to the meeting will be included in the meeting record.

Any requests for reasonable accommodations from individuals with disabilities should be made by contacting the City Clerk's office by email at clerk@alamedaca.gov or by phone at 747-4800.

This city is posting regular COVID-19 updates at www.alamedaca.gov/alerts. Keep checking the site for updates on future meetings.

Measure A is Approved After Final Results Tally

Ekene Ikeme

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office released the final update of the March 3 Presidential Primary Election results on Tuesday, March 24. The Registrar and the California Secretary of State's offices have received 100

percent of the votes cast. The Alameda County Registrar Tim Dupuis made it official by signing the certificate of each county race and sent the final numbers to the California Secretary of State's office. The state will certify all statewide results on April 3.

Alameda City Measure A

The biggest change in the March 24 update were the results of Measure A, the special parcel tax backed by Alameda Unified School District (AUSD). In the March 9 update, Measure A was .21 percent

☛ **VOTE:** Page 3

Kids Touch Donor's Heart

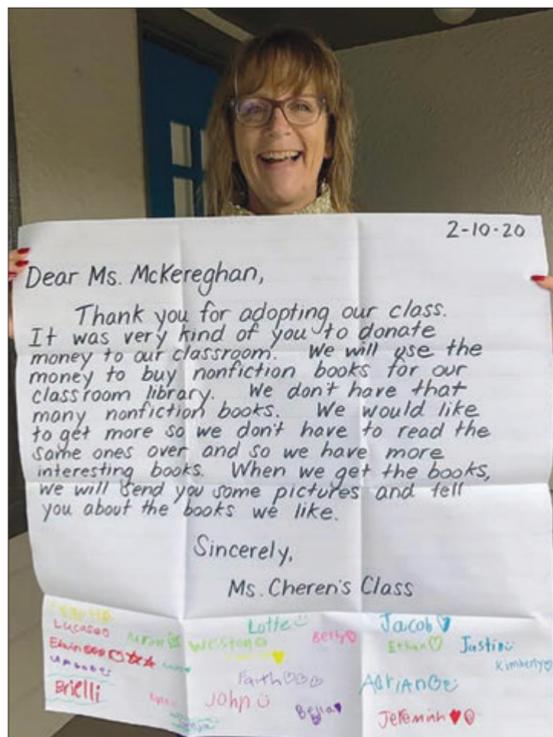
Dennis Evanosky

Alameda Unified School District Board Member and local Realtor Anne McKereghan displays what she calls "the best thank-you card ever." McKereghan adopted Ms. Cheren's class at Paden Elementary School through Alameda Education Foundation's Adopt-A-Classroom program. In return the class created the larger-than-life card pictured here.

McKereghan invites her fellow Alamedans to join her by either adopting a classroom or a teacher. When you adopt a classroom, as McKereghan did, you directly support that teacher with valuable funds needed to support learning opportunities in the classroom. Teachers use the donations to purchase critical resources and materials; update technology; or fund field trips, assemblies or other learning impact programs.

To get started, visit www.alamedaeducationfoundation.org and click the "Adopt Now!" button on the site.

Courtesy photo



Coronavirus Updates

Island City takes action against pandemic sweeping nation, world

Eric J. Kos

The impact of social distancing and actions to prepare for potential quarantines or lockdowns over the outbreak of coronavirus led to some unusual behavior around Alameda and the nation last week. Panic buying led to overconsumption at grocery stores on the Island resulting in unusually long lines and empty shelves. Paper and cleaning products, dry goods, frozen and dairy items were among those in high demand.

Sun staff had front-row seats to what could be considered a bellwether of panic buying, Encinal Market, a smaller market unrelated to any other store, saw attention it hadn't received in its decades-long history. Word was people couldn't even access the parking lot to Bay Farm Island's grocery store at Harbor Bay Landing and hence, overflow shoppers came to the East End market. Even corner convenience stores placed limits on the number of items one consumer could buy at any given time.

With Alameda County under a shelter-in-place order as of St. Patrick's Day, March 17, streets, buses and many otherwise festive venues were empty. The *Alameda Sun* published last week contained some conflicting information because information changed so quickly during its publication. In fact, by the time of its publishing, all city facilities and libraries had been closed and associated programs canceled.

The ripple effects are still being processed. Please watch this space for how people in the Island City are coping and how you can help.

Meals on Wheels Needs Immediate Help

Alameda Meals on Wheels released the following statement last week.

"The Governor has ordered Alameda County to shelter in place. Alameda Meals on Wheels is an essential service that is committed to providing meals to their most vulnerable neighbors. Due to this Shelter in Place, the need for support has increased. We are reaching out to our local community for financial support."

Meals on Wheels is asking for donations now to help them support Alameda neighbors in need. Make a secure online payment now via PayPal at www.alamedamealsonwheels.org or mail a check payable to: Alameda Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 2534, Alameda, CA 94501. Any questions, call 865-6131 or email alamedamow@aol.com.

Widespread Cancellations

The city of Alameda's Public Utilities Board meeting scheduled for March 16 at City Hall was canceled due to concerns about COVID-19. Agenda items from the meeting have been moved to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the AMP Service Center, 2000 Grand St. For more information, see www.alamedamp.com.

The City of Alameda and Bike Walk Alameda had planned

a new pop-up bicycle fair in the City Hall parking lot for last Saturday, but it was not held.

All activities at Mastick Senior Center are canceled. Until



further notice, the center will only be providing its noon meal to those that have preregistered. The meals are to be picked up and enjoyed at home. This might change into a delivery service at some point.

Community Announcements

■ Alameda La Leche League Meetings, which help new mothers adjust to breast feeding, are canceled until further notice. Telephone help is still available from Virginia Thompson, La Leche leader, at 521-4867.

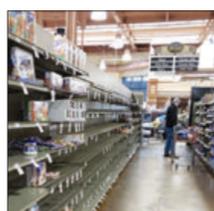
■ Harry Greer of Alameda Funeral & Cremation Services wants the community to know



that while his office is currently closed to personal visits he is available by both phone at 522-6020 and email at harry.greer@alamedafunerals.org.

■ All East Bay Regional Parks

District (EBPRD) visitor centers and rental facilities were closed and programs canceled on March 17. Out of an abundance of caution in continued response to the COVID-19 virus planning, EBPRD implemented facility closures to protect the public and its employees to reduce the potential for exposure to the disease.



This includes Alameda's Cove Visitor Center and all facilities, campgrounds and swim centers around the East Bay. All programs have been canceled, paid or free, including school, recreational and naturalist-directed programs.

■ The *Alameda Sun* has discontinued free door-to-door delivery during this period of social distancing. To continue to receive a printed newspaper, please send a check for \$25 to Alameda Sun Subscriptions, 3215J Encinal Ave., Alameda CA 94501, or see www.alamedasun.com/subscribe.

Some State Tax Relief

State Controller Betty T. Yee reminds California taxpayers:

■ Individual taxpayers will have until Monday, June 15, to file their returns and pay any taxes owed.

■ Partnerships and LLCs also have until June 15 to file returns and pay any taxes owed.

■ Those who have quarterly estimated payments due on Wednesday, April 15, will now have until June 15 to make those payments.

■ Any taxpayer filing under this special deadline relief should note the name of the state emergency (e.g., "COVID-19" or "Coronavirus") in black ink on the top of the tax return to inform Franchise Tax Board (FTB) that you are filing under the special extension period. The FTB will also waive interest and any late filing or late payment penalties that otherwise would apply.

For assistance, visit the FTB's website at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Top to bottom: Empty Alameda bus and bus driver, empty streets by Jackson Quinn; empty shelves in bread aisle at Nob Hill Foods by Eric J. Kos; Alameda spirit by Gabrielle "Gaby" Dolphin