

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 17 No. 31  
April 12, 2018

**INSIDE**



**HOMETOWN NEWS**

Fire Wire Page 2  
Police Blotter Page 9

All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



**SPORTS**

Fencing Page 5

Special event taking place Saturday on history of fencing.

1	9	2	8
6	5	4	2
2	6	9	4
8	4	3	9
7	1	5	6
5	3	1	7

**THE PUZZLES PAGE**

Sudoku & more Page 10

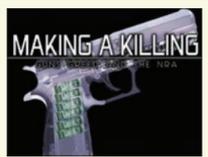
Sharpen those pencils for the puzzles on a new page.



**HOMETOWN NEWS**

Outdoor School Page 4

Local kids can benefit from new, real-world school.



**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Film Screening Page 6

Gun industry documentary to be screened at City Hall.

**CONTENTS**

- HOMETOWN NEWS... 2
- THE CITY PAGE... 3
- PUZZLES & KIDS... 4
- SPORTS... 5
- OPINION... 6
- CLASSIFIED... 7
- LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 8
- HAPPY EASTER!... 12

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**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:39	19:41
April 13	06:37	19:42
April 14	06:36	19:43
April 15	06:35	19:44
April 16	06:33	19:45
April 17	06:32	19:46
April 18	06:30	19:47

## Council to Discuss Lawsuits, Keimach in Closed Session

Dennis Evanosky

The City Council has planned a closed session meeting for next Monday, April 16, at 5 p.m. According to the agenda that the city released on Monday, April 9, the meeting will feature a conference with legal counsel because in the City Council's opinion, a decision has been reached, based on existing facts and circumstances, where there is a significant exposure to three cases of litigation against the city.

This concern relates to allegations made in City Manager Jill Keimach's Oct. 2, 2017, letter to the City Council, the agenda states. In that letter Keimach expressed her concern about City Council interference with her hiring of Fire Chief Edmond Rodriguez. Keimach called the pressure from City Council "intense and unrelenting."

She also made the disturbing allegation that Councilmembers informed her that the selection of Domenick Weaver, Alameda

firefighter's choice for chief "would avoid an incident similar to the one involving Raymond Zack. This thinly veiled threat insults the very notion of good government," she told the City Council in her letter.

Zack drowned in San Francisco Bay, as members of both the Alameda fire and police departments remained ashore and looked on.

The second item on the closed-session agenda calls for a public employee dismissal or release. Keimach is the employee mentioned in the agenda item.

The agenda for the City Council meeting on the evening following the closed-door session contains a recommendation to approve in open session the appointment of Liz Warmerdam as Acting City Manager and approve her pay at \$257,403 annually.

Contact Dennis Evanosky at [editor@alamedasun.com](mailto:editor@alamedasun.com).

## 'Respite Facility' Planned for McKay

Some concerned about proposed drop-in resource center

Irene Dieter

Those who prefer housing for senior citizens, over other types of housing that generate more traffic, will welcome the proposed dwelling units on McKay Avenue near Crab Cove. Former federal offices now located there will be rehabbed to create a medical respite care and assisted-living facility primarily for seniors who are homeless.

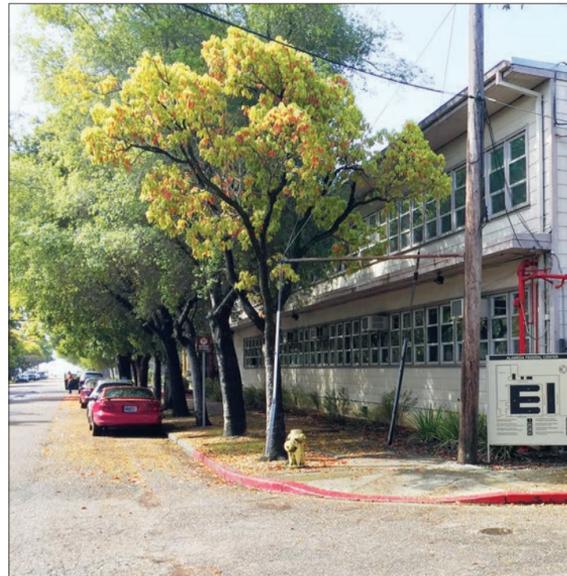
Medical respite care is for people coming out of the hospital who still require medical assistance. Patients are referred by a hospital. The McKay facility could become permanent housing for homeless seniors with chronic or end-of-life medical conditions. There will be no limit on how long they can live there, and for many it will be their final home.

The McKay Avenue site became available when the federal government abandoned its offices and declared the property surplus and suitable for homeless services. "We didn't choose this site, this site chose us," said Doug Biggs, executive director of the Alameda Point Collaborative (APC). "I would have been negligent if I hadn't applied for it, knowing how great the homeless need is." APC, which currently offers transitional housing at Alameda Point for the homeless, was deemed by the feds to be the applicant most qualified to accept free conveyance of the property.

No patients will be discharged from the McKay respite facility onto the street. Those not going into housing may go into another shelter somewhere, may in some cases return to the hospital if needed, or if conditions merit, may be transferred to the assisted living wing of the McKay facility.

Also planned onsite are two administrative wings: a health center and a resource center. The health center will serve the medical and behavioral health needs of the patients in the assisted living and medical respite parts of the facility.

The resource center, on the



Irene Dieter

One of the buildings in the 10-building complex on McKay Avenue that will be converted for use as a medical respite facility. The Crab Cove Visitor Center is at the end of the street on the left.

other hand, will not be specifically tied to the patients admitted to the McKay facility. Instead it will be a daytime drop-in center intended to provide resources for those who are at-risk of homelessness or those who are newly homeless. Outreach workers will assist clients with getting benefits, getting on housing lists, accessing short- to mid-term subsidies to stay housed and other resources. The resource center is expected to serve seven to 10 people a day.

Some worry the drop-in resource center will attract loitering or sleeping in the area. "It seems likely people will hang out while they are waiting for services or waiting to be seen," said Angela Fawcett, a nearby resident. "The neighborhood would support medical respite for seniors, but the drop-in part evokes images of

a permanent homeless presence on the street and in the park." Fawcett said APC's existing facility at Alameda Point "would be a better location to accommodate the general public seeking homeless services rather than next to where children go for educational programs and playing at Crab Cove."

The McKay facility is expected to provide 50 inpatient respite beds, and 80 to 90 inpatient assisted-living units that will be like studio apartments with their own bathroom and kitchenette with refrigerator, microwave and hot plate. Another 12 beds will be used for patients who may need a longer stay but who do not need assisted living. There will also be communal dining facilities.

The city originally asked APC to also consider locating a warming

**FACILITY:** Page 14

## News in Brief

**Sun Staff Reports**

**McNally Memorial Set for Saturday**

Friends of Rosemary McNally, who passed away in January, are hosting a memorial fundraiser picnic in her honor. The picnic will be held from noon to 5 p.m., this Saturday, April 14, at the Mariner's Lagoon picnic area at Crown Memorial State Beach, Eighth Street and Otis Drive.

A longtime Island City Realtor, McNally supported the park and many other causes. Suggested donation is \$25 per adult. In accordance with McNally's wishes, money collected will provide funding to the non-profit Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund. To learn more, contact host Ani Dimusheva at 387-4084 or visit [www.sweeneypenspacepark.org](http://www.sweeneypenspacepark.org).

**Estuary, Bay Paths under Study**

City Councilmember Frank Matarrese is reporting that the city has contracted with landscape architectural firm, Design Workshop (DW) to conduct a feasibility study for six East End paths

that lead to the Oakland Estuary and to San Leandro Bay — three are on the east side of Fernside Boulevard between High Street and Thompson Avenue and three further south along East Shore Drive.

"DW has expertise in conducting feasibility studies and master plans for trails, recreational areas and waterfront facilities," stated Matarrese on his blog <http://councilmanmatarrese.blogspot.com/2018/04/east-end-water-water-sidepaths.html>.

DW expects to provide the city with a completed report by end of May. "The report will include recreational options for each of the six East End walkways and associated cost estimates," stated Matarrese.

Once DW has completed its report, the Alameda Park & Recreation Department will present the findings to the public at community input meetings over the summer. The department will then compile information from the public to bring a draft recommendation to the Recreation and Parks Commission in the fall.



Dennis Evanosky

Richard Bennett, left, and Chris Davis look on as Richard Davis gets comfortable behind the wheel of the 1935 Seagrave pumper that once served Alameda and has come home at last.

## AFD Welcomes Old-Timer Home

Dennis Evanosky

Richard Davis and his son, Chris, waited with Richard Bennett outside Alameda Fire Department's long-shuttered Station No. 5 at Alameda Point last Saturday. Something very special was on the way.

They were waiting for a 1935 Seagrave pumper truck that once served the Alameda Fire Department. Someone — no one recalls just who — purchased the 30-year-old truck for \$1 at a city auction in 1965. It also remains a mystery just how the pumper wound up with its hood and its grille peeking out of the overgrowth in the unlikelyst of places — Ketchikan, Alaska. In 1978 Garth Drakeley discovered the relic.

"We were up visiting my uncle in Stewart, British Columbia, and

went over the border ... and on the way back found this thing backed into somebody's property," Drakeley's son Martin told Chris Bush of the *Nanaimo News Bulletin*.

The Lantzville, British Columbia, Fire Department purchased the nearly complete truck — the owner wouldn't part with the ladders or bell — and had it brought some 665 miles south to its new home. Thomas Whippis, retired Lantzville fire chief and a former auto body repairman, and several other Lantzville volunteer firefighters restored much of the truck's body work and paint. They then sent it some 40 miles south to Harry Blackstaff in Ladysmith. Blackstaff collects and mechanically restores vintage vehicles.

"Harry fine-tuned everything

the way he wanted it and then just put it all together," Whippis told the *News Bulletin*. "We had it assembled, but he kind of took it apart, painted it and put it back together and made it run."

The truck served the City of Lantzville for 39 years, "pulling its weight in parades and ceremonies from Victoria to Parksville, including Lantzville's Mine Town Day celebrations," the *News Bulletin* reported. "It also carried teachers retiring from Seaview Elementary School on their last teaching day and the children would line the school's drive to say farewell."

In February, the City of Alameda purchased the restored truck. Bennett and Richard and Chris Davis had a hand in the complicated task of bringing the 1935 pumper back home.

## 'Radical Beauty' Enlivens Webster Street Friday

Courtesy Rhythmix Cultural Works

The Love Our Island Art Walk, "Radical Beauty" series presented by Rhythmix Cultural Works will continue this Friday, April 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. on Webster Street. The event is the second in an eight-part series produced with grant support from the California Arts Council.

On a mission to bring more arts experiences to the people of Alameda, Rhythmix is literally taking this mission to the streets, instilling "Radical Beauty" in Alameda's historic downtown districts via art installations in empty storefront windows and live music in parklets and pedestrian corridors during select 2nd Friday Art Walk events.

The LoveOurIsland Art Walk will feature performances from Maze Daiko and Epiphany Dance Theater in the parking lot next to Calafia Taqueria, 1445 Webster St. Taiko drums, marimba and violin will accompany dancers evoking the history of Neptune Beach. Across the street on the steps of US Bank, Gamelan Sekar Jaya will present music originating from West Bali. This style uses one of the largest and rarest gamelans, (bronze percussion instruments) a gamelan jegog. The ensemble includes 10-foot-long, bamboo-tube "marimbas" that will fill the air with their sonic vibrations.

The performances of live music and dance help highlight the main component of the Radical Beauty events: art installations in empty storefront windows. All of these activities are collectively intended to help activate Alameda through the arts, which is the main objec-

tive of the Love Our Island Art Walk series.

In the former Larry's Shoe Repair corridor, 1449 Webster St. Ginny Parson's Nature Trash Kites (Inspired by the work of Tyrus Wong) will soar above viewers' heads. Designed and woven into form by Parson's art students, this installation aims to elevate perspectives of what ends up in landfills.

At 711 Santa Clara Ave., Chris Rummell and Dickson Schneider's mixed-media installation with gold leaf will glisten causing one to ponder the meanings of symbols and society.

One block further down Webster Street, the former AAA Scuba store, 1517 Webster St. will feature ghost ghost teeth's work. This artwork takes a journey back in time with nostalgic colors and organic forms. The artist's work is influenced by every part of his life, including his daughter's imagination, his father's flea market finds, the post-punk era, Vietnamese-American culture and video games.

The variety of art and performance at April's Love Our Island Art Walk will be sure to delight as Webster Street will be filled with people, art and energy.

April's Radical Beauty Art Walk is presented in partnership with the West End Arts and Entertainment District and the West Alameda Business Association. A special sneak preview of the upcoming Island City Waterways event at Crab Cove set for the weekend of May 19 and 20, also produced by Rhythmix, will also be performed.

See [islandcitywaterways.org](http://islandcitywaterways.org) or [rhythmix.org](http://rhythmix.org) for more information.