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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:14	19:58
May 1	6:13	19:59
May 2	6:12	20:00
May 3	6:11	20:01
May 4	6:10	20:02
May 5	6:09	20:03
May 6	6:08	20:04

Mayor's Update

Pack it in, pack it out — and don't forget your mask!

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
 Glorious spring weather combined with kids out of school and many residents at home means parks are being heavily used. The East Bay Regional Parks District (EBPRD) and Alameda Recreation and Parks Department (ARPD) need your help to keep our parks clean and safe.

Alameda's Crown Memorial Beach and Crab Cove are part of the EBPRD. Both are currently open to visitors, but parking lots, restrooms, water fountains and picnic areas are closed during the COVID-19 health emergency. Other EBPRD parks have been completely closed because visitors refused to comply with the county's shelter-in-place order.

Ellen Corbett, who represents Alameda on the EBPRD Board of Directors, says parks are seeing record usage seven days a week, but the park district is currently short-staffed for maintenance personnel. She asks Crab Cove and Crown Beach visitors to obey signage and posted rules. You can enjoy the beach, but can't bring your dog. Dogs in parks must be

leashed. Bring a mask and stay 6 feet away from those who don't live in your household. Follow the backpacking principle of, "Pack it in, pack it out" and bring a bag to carry any litter home with you, including your dog's waste. Enjoy this beautiful open space responsibly.

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge reminds you to practice required physical distancing in the open portions of city parks. What's open? All walkways, trails, open grass areas, and boat ramps. People fishing from the rock wall at Encinal Boat Ramp must wear face coverings because maintaining 6 feet of social distance there is challenging.

What's closed?
 All ARPD playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, picnic areas, dog parks and the skate park. Don't break locks, climb fences, rip caution tape, or remove coverings from drinking fountains placed there to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Please don't exercise your dogs on soccer fields and other sports fields so these areas will be clean

Residents asked us to implement a version of Oakland's Slow Streets program which closed some streets to automobile traffic.

and ready for our kids when the stay-at-home order is relaxed. You can walk Fido or Fifi in a park, but please pick up after them and carry the litter bag home with you. Our parks are Alameda's treasures. Enjoy and protect them.

A huge thanks to Alameda Friends of the Parks Foundation that raises funds for park equipment and events, and recently donated \$10,000 each to the Alameda Food Bank and Alameda Meals on Wheels!

Slow Streets Alameda
 Residents asked us to implement a version of Oakland's Slow Streets program which closed
MAYOR: Page 3

Coronavirus Updates

Pandemic sweeping nation, world

Eric J. Kos
 Alamedans have begun hearing about a new concept this week: "Quarantine Fatigue." Using cell phone tracking data, officials have determined that Californians, bottled up in their homes going on a seventh week now, have begun to disregard the shelter-in-place order. Some other states have begun to relax their restrictions. California's order remains in place until at least June 1.

Take it from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after recovering from a case of COVID-19, who said reopening the economy too early would, "throw away all the effort and the sacrifice of the British people and risk a second major outbreak."

Let's not let down our guard and throw away our efforts. Stay home, stay distant and stay healthy — it's just that simple.

City Offers Business Relief

The City of Alameda announced last week it is offering emergency grants up to \$7,500 to retailers, restaurants and other small businesses. Applications and eligibility requirements were expected to be posted April 27 at www.alamedastrong.org.

Business license and business improvement area fees have been deferred for 60 days, from July 1 to Sept. 1. The city's transient occupancy tax is also deferred for 60 days, for the months of March, April and May.

Business hours for food-related services have been extended to 2 a.m. to make curbside pickup easier. Businesses can now sell to-go alcoholic beverages, food and other essential goods. Contact the Planning, Building and Transportation Department at 510-747-6800 for more information.

St. Joe's Donates PPE

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School (SJND) teachers Zoey Adam and Andy McKee are leading efforts to donate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other equipment to local healthcare workers on behalf of SJND.

Over the last several weeks, Adam has rounded up supplies from around school — specifically the science department — to donate. So far SJND has donated more than 1,500 gloves, nearly 100 pairs of goggles and safety glasses, eight gallons of hydrogen peroxide, whiteboard markers, lysol wipes and three pediatric masks.

Last week, Adam delivered PPE to the Berkeley Police Department. This will help with efforts to move at-risk homeless individuals into safer housing, and equip elder-care workers and first responders.

McKee has been using the SJND IDEA Lab's 3D printers to create masks and face shields. To date, he has donated the materials to members of the SJND community, including a CVS pharmacist and a Kaiser labor and delivery nurse.

Everyone Belongs Here Contest Open Now

The 2020 Everyone Belongs Here Poem and Poster Contest is currently underway. The theme

for this year's contest is how everyone still belongs here and belongs together, but how everyone needs to adapt to show unity. With that in mind, several sub-themes are suggested:

■ Everyone Belongs Six Feet Apart!
 ■ Everyone Should Wear a Mask!

■ Everyone Belongs at Home!
 ■ Everyone Belongs Here (except maybe not viruses)

Poems and posters can show and share how Alamedans are all

making the best of this very difficult time by following guidelines, staying healthy and still learning and living creatively. The contest was expanded this year to include students of all grades in the three traditional categories: kindergarten to fifth grade, sixth to eighth grade and ninth to 12th grade.

Young Alamedans are invited to write a poem and/or design a poster on any variation of the Alameda Unified School District slogan reflecting how people live now.

Poems can be of any length and should be sent to Alameda Poet Laureate Gene Kahane at gene.kahane@gmail.com by Friday, May 8.

Posters can be any size, using any material and can be dropped off at Tomatina Restaurant, 1338 Park St., from noon to 8 p.m., also by May 8.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each grade category and there will be an overall grand-prize winner for the poster contest.

All entries will be put on display in the windows of Books, Inc., at 1344 Park St.

For more information email Kahane at the address above.

Adopt Pets Virtually, but also for Real

Through the use of technology, phone interviews, the Alameda Animal Shelter

parking lot and carefully managed physical distancing protocols, Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS) is now offering a new "virtual adoption" program.

Call (510) 337-8565 to get started. Due to limited staffing set aside extra time to complete adoptions using this new process. The Alameda Support Foundation will cover adoption fees with a donation.

In keeping with California's continued mandate to shelter in place, both FAAS locations remain closed to the general public. Staff is working at 1590 Fortmann Way and from home to provide essential services.

FAAS also distributes free pet food and supplies every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon to Alamedans who need assistance.

Sun Receives Reprieve

Posting everywhere from social media to the Bay Farm Island Bicycle Bridge, Alamedans came to the Alameda Sun's rescue last week. Thanks to about 40 new subscribers, our delivery volunteers, the hugely generous donors (you know who you are), and the loan from the Payroll Protection Program, the Sun's finances should ensure publication through the end of summer.

Top to bottom: Alameda Food Bank line, empty ferry parking lot, locals out for a walk in their finery, keep your feet six feet apart from other feet by Celeste Lane



A Sign of the Times

Joshua Linville

Mindful of the loss of senior year celebrations this spring, a group of families and high school staff from across the district have planned "Alameda Senior Signing Day," tomorrow, Friday, May 1.

Personalized yard signs will be delivered to every senior across the district this week. From 10 to 10:44 a.m., the Mayor, Superintendent, president of the Board of Education, Alameda's four high school principals and other special guests will speak live on KJTZ (96.1 FM or www.encinalradio.com) to congratulate the Class of 2020.

At 10:44:50, after a count down from 10, seniors will put their signs in yards, on a balcony, or in a window, while KJTZ plays congratulatory music. Organizers are also asking residents to come out on their porches or front yards and applaud the kids at 10:45 a.m.

Eric J. Kos

Island's Unhoused Have Solutions

Housing secured through FEMA, two County programs

Sun Staff Reports

Earlier this month, the City of Alameda received four trailers from the State of California to provide housing for up to eight people who are unhoused during the COVID-19 pandemic. The trailers, located at Alameda Point in the parking lot on Alameda Unified School District property on West Essex Drive, will provide stable housing to people who are non-symptomatic for COVID-19 during the shelter-in-place order.

Residents for the trailers are identified by staff from Operation Dignity and Building Futures, who are very familiar with the Alameda population of unhoused individuals. In addition to housing, residents will be support-

ed with daily check-ins from the city's homeless mobile outreach team at Operation Dignity and the Alameda Police Department's Homeless Liaison Officers. A paramedic will also conduct a wellness check four days a week, Monday through Thursday.

This week, the city is providing all the basic necessities to furnish the trailers prior to move in, as well as utility connections and weekly food and laundry services. For any residents who have a pet, Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter is providing, at no cost, an initial pet health check with vaccinations and licensing as well as any supplies needed such as food, bedding, leashes and flea medicine.

This program is currently funded for nine months and will be reassessed on an ongoing basis and at the end of that time to determine subsequent options.

In addition to providing housing in these trailers, Alameda County launched two housing-resource programs, Operation Comfort and Project Safer Ground, to shelter individuals who are unhoused during the COVID-19 pandemic in designated hotels. These programs are part of a larger state initiative called Project Room Key, administered by the California Department of Social Services.

Operation Comfort prioritizes those who test positive for COVID-19.

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Stay-at-Home Thru June 1

Sun Staff Reports

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced to Californians Monday, April 27, that he has extended the state's stay-at-home order through Monday, June 1. He said that the order will remain in effect until his office decides to lift it. Six indicators will serve as the framework for making that decision. These include: the ability to monitor and protect communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating and supporting those who have tested positive or who have been exposed to COVID-19 and the ability to prevent infection in people who are severely at risk and the ability of California's hospitals and health systems to handle COVID-19 surges.

Newsom said that his office is also considering how the state of California can meet the demand for therapeutics; how businesses, schools and childcare facilities support physical distancing and how to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home order, if necessary.

For more information, visit www.covid19.ca.gov.

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