

# Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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### Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	05:53	20:19
May 25	05:52	20:20
May 26	05:52	20:20
May 27	05:51	20:21
May 28	05:51	20:22
May 29	05:50	20:23
May 30	05:50	20:23

## City Settles with Keimach

### Sun Staff Reports

The city of Alameda and former City Manager Jill Keimach agreed to a \$900,000 settlement that ended her employment with the city on May 15.

Mayor Trish Spencer announced the settlement at the May 15 City Council meeting.

"The City Council thanks her for her service to the city and the city wishes Ms. Keimach well in her continued public sector career," said Spencer.

The council voted 3-2 in favor of the settlement. Spencer and Vice Mayor Malia Vella voted "no."

The deal includes \$257,400 in severance, 18 months of health benefits and a \$519,000 annuity to be paid in two installments, on Aug. 1 and Feb. 1, 2019. The city will also pay Keimach's attorney's fees of \$125,000. The city has not announced where the funds will come from.

The agreement prohibits Keimach from any litigation against the city and is not an admission of liability by either Keimach or the city, according to the agreement.

### Investigation Timeline of Fire Chief Hire Process, Part Two

The first half of this timeline appeared in last week's edition.

#### Ekene Ikeme

On Aug. 1, 2017, Councilmember Jim Oddie joined Alameda Police Department Chief Paul Roller on National Night Out. Roller's name is redacted, but this has been confirmed by multiple reports. According to the report, Roller said that Oddie told him Keimach needed to "do the right thing," in terms of hiring Domenick Weaver, and that there were already two Councilmembers ready to fire her if she did not. Oddie denied making the remark about firing Keimach to the investigator.

That same day an unnamed person asked Vice Mayor Malia Vella to write a recommendation letter on behalf of Weaver. She consulted with Ron Gould, a senior partner at Management Partners, a consulting firm, about the request. After the meeting she decided not to write the letter.

**TIMELINE:** Page 3



Workers from the City of Oakland clear debris from the hilltop at Oakland's Union Point Park directly across the Oakland Estuary from Alameda. Brock de Lappe

## Authorities Face New Estuary Challenges

Homeless camps dispersed from park across the water

### Dennis Evanosky

A new issue has arisen on the Oakland Estuary across from the Alameda Marina. Alameda and Oakland residents and businesses along the estuary breathed easier some five years ago with the completion of a \$4.3 million cleanup of the waterway. The Alameda Police Department (APD) was among 15 agencies involved in clearing the estuary of debris. ("Estuary Cleanup in Full Swing," Oct. 25, 2013).

They used Francis Collins' property at Clement Avenue and Oak Street to stage their operations. They raised the tug boats *Respect* and *Captain Al*, a pair of barges and a large amount of trash from the estuary's bottom.

In 2015 Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation to facilitate

keeping the estuary safe and clean ("New Law to Help Keep Estuary Clean," Oct. 15, 2015). The new law aimed at helping authorities more quickly handle derelict, unseaworthy vessels or parts of vessels and provide an expedited procedure for ridding the estuary of marine debris.

The City of Oakland christened Union Point Park, almost 13 years ago. "The park had enticing views of the estuary, picnic and barbecue facilities, expansive lawns and gardens, spectacular landscape architecture and play structures with a marine theme," the city boasted on opening day, Sept. 5, 2005.

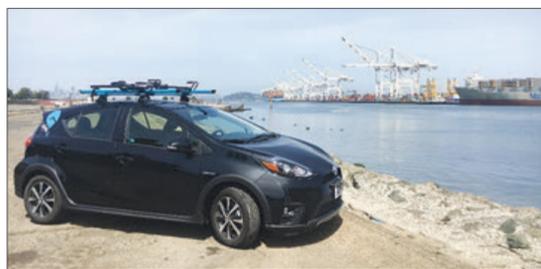
That all changed over time. "There is a major problem with multiple homeless encampments at the Union Point Park,"

a Nov. 13, 2017, complaint filed with the city read. "This results in large unsightly piles of trash and debris, rampant illegal drug use and discarded hypodermic needles. It makes this park unsafe."

On May 15 the City of Oakland responded with a major cleanup project. The city plans to move through the park in stages, cleaning and evicting those who have set up camp there on the way. Supporters of the cleanup call it a "huge development that should be wildly supported by the members of the community who want to use the park as intended."

Brock de Lappe contributed to this story.

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



Courtesy photo

Alameda is among the first cities to try out Gig Car Share, a one-way carsharing program that allows cars to be left anywhere within certain designated areas.

## One-Way Car Share Launched

### Sun Staff Reports

Starting last Thursday, May 17, some 35 Gig Car Share vehicles appeared on the main island. The cars are ready for use for one-way trips between Alameda, core East Bay communities and two San Francisco locations.

On May 1 the City Council approved an agreement with Gig Car Share to have up to 50 of the new vehicles on the main island. Gig Car Share has not yet launched on Bay Farm Island.

Carsharing aims to reduce car ownership and provide greater transportation choices. The idea is not new here, as the Island already has "dedicated space" carsharing at four locations with Getaround (formerly City CarShare). The city also has peer-to-peer carsharing that allows Alamedans to rent their private vehicles to neighbors.

The new agreement represents a third type of carsharing called one-way or point-to-point, where members are able to rent available vehicles and end trips anywhere in designated areas. For Gig Car Share, designated areas include two parking lots in San Francisco, the City of Albany and the core areas of

Oakland and Berkeley, including seven BART stations: Fruitvale, West Oakland, Lake Merritt, North Berkeley, Ashby, Rockridge and MacArthur.

Carsharing not only reduces driving costs for individuals and businesses, it increases access to vehicles, especially for lower-income individuals. Carsharing reduces vehicle purchases and vehicle miles traveled, with each shared vehicle removing from seven to 11 privately owned vehicles off the street.

Car-share vehicles also tend to be less polluting and more fuel efficient than typical personal vehicles and have more safety features that help avoid or reduce the impact of collisions.

Carsharing is defined as a membership-based service, which allows all qualified, licensed drivers to make vehicle trips with the use of a rented vehicle without a separate written requirement for each trip.

Gig Car Share has a team of fleet operators who clean and fuel the cars throughout the communities they serve. For more information, download the Gig Car Share app or visit [gigcarshare.com](http://gigcarshare.com).

## Memorial Day Marks 20 Years for Vets Park

### Sun Staff Reports

The public is invited to the 20th anniversary of the opening of Veterans Memorial Park and Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 28, at 11 a.m. A solemn ceremony will be held for these that sacrificed all for this country.

"Alameda has a proud history as a military town and we continue to remember the sacrifices of so many," said Marine Corps veteran Joe LoParo. "This is a day to remind ourselves that Memorial Day is not a day to for a family barbecue to celebrate a day off work. It is a time to remember and honor loved ones that have sacrificed their lives so we can enjoy our freedom every day."

Mayor Trish Spencer will open the services. Barbara Acosta will sing the National Anthem. Encinal JROTC will provide the Color Guard. The invocation will be said by Chaplain Erik Neider LT CHC USN. Honoring of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Missing

Man Table will be the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 400, American Legion and the Gold Star Mothers of America.

The keynote speaker will be Major Jarrod C. Rothman. Major Rothman is a combat veteran, having served several tours in operation Iraqi Freedom, he also has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in History from the U.S. Naval Academy.

I hear so many people thank veterans for their service and believe me that is appreciated," said LoParo. "But what I say to people that thank me is, 'If you would like to thank a veteran, be the kind of American that is worth dying for, for it is they who truly deserve it.' We can all agree that there is disagreement among many as to the greatness of America. But no matter how you feel about it, we are where we are today due to the sacrifices of many throughout American history."

## City to Screen Documentary Straws

### Sun Staff Reports

Local residents can take advantage of a free screening of the award-winning documentary film *Straws* on Wednesday, May 30, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Alameda Free Library. The audience will also hear from Jackie Nunez, founder of The Last Plastic Straw, about how Alameda is leading the straw-free movement. Nunez inspired Alameda's student movement to eliminate plastic straws (and now all plastic food ware) in Alameda.

The 30-minute film narrated by Tim Robbins highlights the impact of plastic pollution and

how communities across the nation, like Alameda, are making a difference. Alameda is an island impacted on all sides by marine litter, mostly single-use plastic food packaging. Last year, Clean Water Action's ReThink Disposable selected Alameda for its groundbreaking community-wide project, Unpackaging Alameda. More than 40 restaurants on the Island have been recruited to reduce disposable food ware in favor of reusables already. The program seeks to recruit at least 60 more.

Nunez is expected to present an award to the City of Alameda at

the screening. ReThink Disposable Youth Ambassadors (local high school students) will present new findings, celebrate the ReThink Disposable restaurants and inspire the public to make the transformation toward a plastic-free Alameda.

The free screening is sponsored by Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund and the city's waste-reduction initiatives. All attendees will receive a complementary reusable, metal straw.

The Alameda Free Library is located at 1550 Oak St. For more information, visit [casa-alameda.org](http://casa-alameda.org).



## Waterways Thrills Hundreds with History, Art

Photo & Story by Eric J. Kos

Dancers cavort as if swimming in the Neptune Beach pool that once lay beneath their feet as musicians perform and narrators tell the amusement park's story as part of last weekend's Island City Waterways. Over the two days, some 40 artists retold the varied history of Alameda's Crab Cove, including the era when it served as a training facility for Merchant Marine officers, through dance, music and poetry in eight performances. Audiences moved from location to location in the park, enjoying a unique performance in each spot. An overarching tale celebrated the Island's diversity and pointedly brought attention to the need to better care for the planet's oceans, the waterway that connects us all. For more photos from the event, turn to page 13.