

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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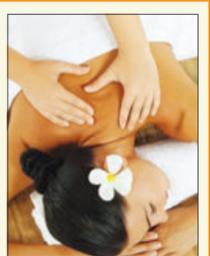
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**Alameda Sun
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Today	06:27	19:59
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Bette Center Reinvigorated

Ekene Ikeme

The Frank Bette Center for the Arts held its first event since its closure in March last Friday, Aug. 12, with a reception for its annual Plein Air Paintout exhibition.

Paintings featured in the exhibit captured various scenery throughout Alameda. Awards were given out at the ceremony to artists for their work, which was mandated by exhibit rules to be created between Aug. 1 and 6.

Anette Power won the Best of Show award for her painting "Peachy Parking." Justin Pastores won the Frank Bette award for his "Webster and Santa Clara" painting. Chuck Kovacic won the Alameda Award for "5 o'clock Shadow." Other winners included Yvonne Lee (Island Award), Paul Feinberg (PaPo Award) and Pastores again (Quick Draw Artists' Choice Award). The works of art will remain on display until October.

The event went smoothly, according to Margaret Fago, president of Frank Bette Center's board of directors. What made the night more special was that it served as the de facto grand reopening of the center. The Frank Bette Center for the Arts, located at 1601 Paru St., was closed on March 11 by the city of Alameda. The city closed the center down because they failed several code violations, according to Fago.

"We had several issues with the building," said Fago. "This was definitely not the city's fault."

Fago said the building did not meet the city's code due to electrical issues, problems with the outside stairs, plumbing, ventilation and other violations.

The center's board estimated the building needed \$25,000 worth of renovations to make the fixes needed to be up to code. So the board started fundraising.

"We took a three-pronged approach," said Fago. "We started a Gofundme, we contacted people in the community to donate and we accepted donations on our website and social media."

The fundraising effort paid off as the center received about \$35,000 in donations. The board used the funds to fix the electrical work, the upper outside deck, the outside stairs and buy a new water heater among other things.

"We also used the money to pay for expenses," said Fago. "We had to pay the mortgage, the insurance and Comcast."

Fago said the board was able to find locations for most of the planned exhibits, but two group shows had to be canceled.

"We had to cancel some art classes as well," she said. "We were concerned some shows wouldn't come back to the center."

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Dennis Evanosky

Frank Bette Center for the Arts volunteers (left to right): Margaret Fago, Ros Harper, Amy Patick and Kris Warrenberg celebrate the reopening of the central Alameda gallery.



Dennis Evanosky

A row of abandoned boats and trailers blights the southern border of the Extended Stay America parking lot on Marina Village Parkway. The city's Code Compliance Department opened a case last Tuesday to resolve the blight.

Parking Lot Attracts Crime, Shenanigans

City to open case file on lot local hotel denies it owns

Dennis Evanosky

Steve Meckfessel has put down deep roots in Marina Village. He came aboard when Vintage Properties started developing the former site of the Bethlehem Steel shipyards. Vintage sold the property about 10 years ago, but Meckfessel stayed. Today he is the managing investor for SRM Managing Investors, owners of the Marina Village Yacht Harbor. "We are honored to be the stewards of this special place. We take this honor seriously," Meckfessel said.

He became concerned about his "special place," in 2015 when he began noticing a growing accumulation of abandoned boats, boat trailers and automobiles in his neighbor's — Extended Stay America's — parking lot. When he contacted Extended Stay, its management denied that the hotel even owned the property where the boats, trailers and cars sat abandoned.

Meckfessel did his homework at the Alameda County Assessor's Office and was able to show the hotel that the growing mess was indeed on its property. Again the hotel denied ownership and responsibility.

"Our General Manager at that location has reviewed a site map and the area you refer to is not owned by Extended Stay," Christopher N. Dekle, the hotel's general counsel and vice-president stated to Meckfessel in a letter. Meckfessel contacted the city of Alameda. The Alameda Police Department and the city's Public Works Department got involved. Meckfessel was able to convince city staff of the obvious: Extended Stay did indeed own and was responsible for the deteriorating property where the abandoned boats, trailers and cars continued to blight the parking lot.

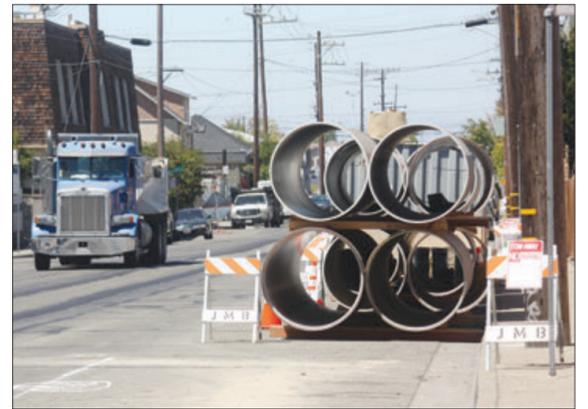
Last Monday, Meckfessel received news that brought the issue up a notch. He heard from a neighbor who described some "seedy activity": someone living in one of the abandoned cars, prostitutes using the blight as cover to ply their trade and young adults drinking and using drugs there.

Meckfessel called the *Alameda Sun* and a reporter visited the Extended Stay America parking lot. He discovered and photographed 25 boat trailers, 16 boats and six automobiles — all abandoned on

what the assessor's records clearly show is Extended Stay America's property. The *Sun's* reporter also documented the trash and debris littering the area around the abandoned boats, cars and trailers.

A call to the city of Alameda led to the first step in a resolution to the problem. On Tuesday, city staff opened a case file on the property and the city will now take a close look at a problem that sorely needs resolution. Stay tuned.

Contact Dennis Evanosky at editor@alamedasun.com.



Dennis Evanosky

EBMUD pipes along Clement Avenue are part of a project to replace the Alameda Interceptor Pipe that manages the city's wastewater.

Sewer Project Underway

Water company sliplining Alameda Interceptor Pipe for wastewater

Sun Staff Reports

Residents who have witnessed the arrival of 42-inch wide, 200-foot long pipes along Grand Street and Clement Avenue this week are seeing the beginning of an East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) project to slipline a major wastewater pipe called the Alameda Interceptor Pipe.

Sliplining has been used since the 1940s, and is used to repair leaks or restore structural stability to an existing pipeline. Sliplining is completed by installing a smaller, "carrier pipe" into a larger "host pipe," grouting the annular space between

the two pipes, and sealing the ends. The interceptor pipe is the lowest gravity pipe in the system, accepting wastewater from various sources and directing it to the main wastewater treatment plant in Oakland.

The project will impact Clement Avenue, Grand Street, Buena Vista Avenue and Constitution Way. In addition to sliplining 4,500 linear feet of pipe, the project will replace 17 manholes, demolish and replace one manhole and perform additional work on some 140 linear feet of pipe.

For questions or information regarding this project, contact Pam Hopkins of EBMUD at 287-1326.

U.S. Rowing Finishes Fourth

Alamedan just misses Olympic medal

Ekene Ikeme

The U.S. Olympic rowing coxed men's eight team ended its bid at an Olympic medal in Rio de Janeiro after finishing fourth in the final last Saturday, Aug. 13.

The team, which includes Alameda resident Han Struzyna, completed the two-kilometer race in 5:34.23. Great Britain's team stormed off to a great start and never relinquished its lead. They won gold with a time of 5:29.63. Germany kept it close, but was unable to get ahead of Great Britain. They finished with a time of 5:30.96 and the silver medal. Team U.S. just missed earning a bronze medal by less than three seconds. That medal instead

went to the Netherlands with a time of 5:31.59.

The coxed eight team, which consist of eight rowers and a coxswain, did beat two other teams in the six-team race. Poland came in fifth place with a time of 5:34.62, while New Zealand placed sixth with a time of 5:36.64.

The U.S. team's Olympic journey began Monday, Aug. 8, in the preliminary round. The squad finished in 5:40.26, good for second in Heat 2 and fourth overall among the seven teams that competed. The team, along with four other teams, was placed in the repêchage — a consolation qualifying meet — because

ROWING: Page 10

Coast Guard Changes Command

Sun Staff Reports

Both current and prospective Coast Guard Pacific Area commanders, Vice Adm. Charles W. Ray and Vice Adm. Fred M. Midgette, inspect the honor platoon during the change of command ceremonies last Tuesday, Aug. 15, at Coast Guard Island. The command's area of responsibility encompasses six continents, 71 countries and more than 74 million square miles of ocean.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Loumania Stewart, 11th District Public Affairs