

Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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**Alameda Sun
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City Working on Plan for Homeless Camps

Sun Staff Reports

The City of Alameda is working collaboratively with Alameda Point Collaborative, Operation Dignity and the Social Services Human Resources Board (SSHRB) to develop and implement a plan to prevent increased homeless encampments in the city.

Homeless encampments in Alameda and across the entire Bay Area region have grown in recent months. With the construction of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park anticipated to begin the city is trying to create a compassionate plan of action to help those displaced by the construction.

"This is a well-thought-out plan that serves the needs of the homeless and the interests of the community," said Doug Biggs, executive director of Alameda Point Collaborative. "It is exciting to see the plans for the park moving forward and that we are using this opportunity to work to end homelessness in Alameda."

The city's plan includes an agreement with Operation Dignity, a nonprofit based in Oakland and Alameda, to provide an initial assessment of homeless people living in Alameda; bringing to Council for approval in October a one-year agreement with Operation Dignity to provide on-site case management services to homeless individuals in an effort to get people housed and accessing available services when possible; and notices were posted Aug. 19 throughout the park to inform people that construction is coming and the general timeframe.

Other details of the plan include the Alameda Police Depart-

ment (APD) posting the legally required 30-day eviction notices once the exact timeframe for the first construction phase of Sweeney Park is confirmed, anticipated to be in November/December. When construction begins, a temporary fence will be erected around the construction zone. The city will also apply for a Stop-Waste state grant on Nov. 1, for funding to clean up hazardous materials from abandoned encampments.

The city is also discussing mid-to long-term options for the remaining undeveloped areas of the park. They include installing temporary solar lighting throughout undeveloped areas, using a goat abatement service to clear brush and ensure better visibility into the area and making a determination on whether to keep the undeveloped areas open to the public or remain fenced.

This plan includes input from all departments involved with this continued effort to address issues of neighborhood safety, provide resources in a humane way, and create a long-term strategy and solution for developing park spaces.

The city is convening a neighborhood meeting to allow for feedback and discussion on these initial plans and provide general information about homeless referrals. The meeting is set for Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave.

A collection bin for socks and toiletries will be available at the meeting and anyone attending is encouraged to bring donations.

Contact Sun staff at editor@alamedasun.com.



Dennis Evanosky

Encinal High School students gather in their brand-new radio studio. They plan to begin broadcasting a live news program and other content in November.

Encinal High Joins Radio Station Effort

Ekene Ikeme

Alameda Community Radio (ACR) and Encinal High School are teaming up to produce a new radio station in Alameda. KACR-LP, a low power radio station for Alameda listeners, will be on 96.1 FM starting later this fall.

The two entities have agreed to share studio space and a local transmitter. The new radio station has been in the development stages for many years, according to Kevin Gorham, who heads Enci-

nal's broadcast training program and has been working with Alameda Community Radio to set up the new radio station. Gorham said he has envisioned bringing a radio station to Encinal since he began teaching at Encinal five years ago.

"I spent 20 years doing morning radio," said Gorham. "It has always been my dream to teach radio production to young people."

The shared radio station will be housed on the Encinal campus, according to Gorham.

"It is a full radio and film production studio. There are two studios, one for live radio production and the other for recorded content. There is also a classroom, television production space and a green screen at the facility."

Encinal's portion of the programming will be created by students in the Encinal broadcast training program, with adults there just to supervise. "There are 49 students in the program," said Gorham. "The students will be fully responsible for the programming on the air."

Encinal and ACR will create similar content, but Encinal will involve more youth-based programming. ACR said its programming will include music, community news and issues, interviews, poetry, literature, the visual arts, local sports and local history. Though Encinal's programming details are not set, Gorham said the students have talked about doing sports, local news and possibly a show about important issues discussed on the Encinal campus.

Encinal will produce five hours of content a day from 6 to 11 a.m. Encinal will produce a live news program from 7 to 9 a.m. that will include local and national news, traffic updates, weather forecasts and newsworthy topics on campus. The other three hours of programming will be recorded content, according to Gorham.

Encinal and ACR came together to better their chances at obtaining a local radio license to create the station. Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act (LCRA) in 2010, which President Obama signed, after years of effort by media activists. It opened a one-time historic application window for nonprofits and community organizations to request low-power radio licenses. ACR, an internet-based radio station at the time, and Encinal applied for sepa-

rate bids to obtain the 96.1 frequency. They were also competing with four other radio entities, according to radiosavior.com. Part of ARC's mission statement goals is to provide a forum for students and faculty of schools so the partnership made sense for both sides. After working together the two sides obtained the license for the 96.1 frequency in 2014.

Gorham said the station should be up and running sometime in November. Because this is a low-power radio station, it will only be heard in Alameda. The Alameda Unified School District will finance Encinal's portion of the radio station. KACR, by contrast, is solely dependent on contributions from the Alameda community. To donate or for more information on KARC, visit <http://alamedacommunityradio.org>.

Pocket Park Update

Dennis Evanosky

The Alameda Sun reported that the City Council discussed in closed session the fate of three pocket parks along Fernside Boulevard ("Parks Could Close," Sept. 1). The city cannot disclose what the councilmembers and staff did discuss behind those closed doors. The Sun did learn that these parks were not on the table.

However, the city is aware that six homeowners, whether knowingly or unknowingly, have encroached either on the walkways that lead to the small parks, or on the small semi-circular parks along the Oakland Estuary shoreline. City staff intends to open a dialogue with these six property owners about their solution to their encroachment on city property. In addition city staff is seeking a solution to the current lack of access to one of these small parks. Discussions will include the hours of daytime public access to

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#LoveOurIsland Launch Today

Sun Staff Reports

A new social media initiative to promote the city of Alameda begins today at City Hall. "So often we hear people talking about Alameda and all the things that make our Island community unique," stated the city's press release. "From our businesses to our tree-lined streets, from our shoreline to our parks, from our schools to our community organizations, from our tireless and dedicated volunteers to our friendly residents, we celebrate our love for the Island every time we attend a festival, help clean up the shoreline, cheer for a favorite youth sports team, visit a park and shop and dine local."

This week the city launched a new way to celebrate the Island we all love. The public is invited to join the Alameda City Council, Alameda Unified School District, Alameda Chamber of Commerce, along with many others, on the steps of City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave., today, Thursday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m., for a

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Dennis Evanosky

Members of the City Council join fellow community leaders to break ground for the first phase of Estuary Park on Mosley Avenue on the West End.

City Digs in at New Park

Dennis Evanosky

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, city leaders gathered to break ground at Estuary Park, eight acres of land that will become a sports haven on the city's West End. This project includes a youth baseball field, a synthetic regulation-size athletic field, as well as restrooms, a concession building and group picnic areas.

Recreation and Park Department Director Amy Wooldridge said that the major funding for the project came from the Alameda Housing Authority that contributed \$1 million for the project. East Bay Regional Park District Measure WW funds added \$500,000 to the funding, while Catellus, who is develop-

ing nearby Alameda Landing, provided \$400,000.

Phase One of the project will include Challenger Field, a place where adults and children with mental and physical challenges can recreate. Clayton Woo, who runs the Challenger Division for Alameda Little League, said that he was looking forward to his special-needs players taking advantage of the new field at Estuary Park. Little League International established the Challenger Division to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges to enjoy the game of baseball.

Wooldridge had special thanks for Roberta Rockwell, president

of the Alameda East Bay Miracle League.

In 2014 Rockwell approached the city with a plea to build a baseball field where all children, regardless of their disabilities could enjoy participating in sports. Rockwell pointed to the 300 youngsters in Alameda "with physical and developmental challenges significant enough to precluded them from accessing our fields and parks and from playing on our local teams."

The creation of Challenger Field at Estuary Park will provide these special children with the place they deserve, a place they can call their own, a place they can play ball.

Restaurant Workers File Lawsuit

Chain involved has location downtown

Sun Staff Reports

Last Thursday, Sept. 8, the Asian Law Caucus joined with the Centro Legal de la Raza and the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center to represent three workers who filed a lawsuit against Burma Superstar restaurants. In the suit filed in Alameda County Superior Court, the workers allege that three Burma Superstar restaurants, one of which is located at 1345 Park St. in Alameda, failed to pay them and other employees minimum wage.

The three plaintiffs are seeking class-action status. If granted by the court, the lawsuit will cover not just them, but all employees they allege are affected by Burma Superstar's failure to keep accurate time and pay records and provide its employees with accurate wage statements.

"The allegations fit into an unfortunately widespread pattern of restaurants taking advantage of immigrant workers with limited English skills who are unaware of their rights — or who fear retaliation if they assert their rights," Centro Legal de la Raza stated in a press release announcing the lawsuit.

Jesse Newmark, litigation director at Centro Legal de la Raza stated that these alleged wage violations are prevalent in the Bay Area. "These allegations reflect a business model that Centro Legal has seen at far too many other restaurants across the Bay Area, he stated.

The immigrants involved in the lawsuit speak Spanish, Chinese, or Burmese as native languages. The plaintiffs allege that their allega-

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News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

APD Offers Car Seat Advice

Alameda Police Department (APD) is offering free expert advice on the proper installation children's car seats. Members of the department will be in the City Hall parking lot just behind APD headquarters at 1555 Oak St. this Saturday, Sept. 17, from 10 to noon. This is a good opportunity for parents to make certain that their children properly fit into their car seats.

Voter Registration Event Set at Library

The city of Alameda, and the entire country, face an important election this November. Are you registered to vote? If you've moved, never registered, or are changing parties, you need to register. The

last day to register online, in person, or by phone is Monday, Oct. 24. But why wait that long?

The Alameda Free Library and the Alameda League of Women Voters will have a special registration event on Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Main Library, 1550 Oak St., Alameda. This is National Voter Registration Day and the library will be a part of the push to get every American registered.

There will be hard-copy forms available to complete and mail in, or one of two dedicated computer terminals can be used for online registration.

This event is free and no appointment is necessary. For more information, contact the Alameda Free Library at 747-7777.