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**Alameda Sun Almanac**  

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:02	16:52
Nov. 29	7:03	16:51
Nov. 30	7:04	16:51
Dec. 1	7:05	16:51
Dec. 2	7:06	16:51
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## Recording Released

Ekene Ikeme

The City of Alameda has released the audio and transcript of the August 2017 meeting between former Alameda City Manager Jill Keimach and Councilmembers Malia Vella and Jim Oddie, Wednesday, Nov. 20, on its website.

In the one-and-a-half-hour meeting, Keimach expressed her exasperation for the perceived pressure she received from now-former Alameda Firefighters Union President Jeff Del Bono to hire Domenick Weaver as the city's new Fire Chief. Weaver was backed by the firefighters' union. At one point in the audio Keimach describes a conversation she had with Del Bono.

"I told him 'I just want it to be open, and a fair process,'" Keimach said about filling the Fire Chief role. "And I want everyone to be treated equally." And he said, "Yes." Then he came back two days later and said, "I have the person I want you to hire." And I said, "Well, remember, this is an open and fair process." And he said, "Yes, I remember." But then he started a campaign. And a campaign isn't an open-and-fair, treating-everyone-equally process."

Vella and Oddie also supported Weaver. They believed appointing Weaver as chief would help labor negotiations with the firefighters' union and the city's budget.

"We have priorities about OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) and some of this other stuff," said Vella. "I think that it would be helpful for us to have a partner in that position who's been through it before, and who is going to be able to work with those members who are going to be very opinionated."

Keimach said that Weaver should go through the interview process like the other 40 applicants. She directly asked the Councilmembers if they wanted her to hire Weaver, regardless of who else applied. Neither Councilmember agreed.

Later on in the meeting Oddie made it clear to Keimach that neither he, nor Vella, asked her to appoint Weaver directly.

"I didn't tell you who to hire," said Oddie. "And I don't think Malia did, either. That was not the point of the meeting."

The pressure from the firefighters' union, along with the letters supporting Weaver, prompted Keimach to secretly record the meeting, which is illegal under California state law. However, Keimach was cleared by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office because state law allows recording confidential communications if there is reason to believe it would relate to criminal conduct, including bribery or extortion.

Keimach resigned from the City Manager post in May 2018 with a \$945,000 separation agreement.

To view the transcript or listen to the audio of the meeting, visit [www.alamedaca.gov/government/recording-release](http://www.alamedaca.gov/government/recording-release).

## Gathering to Discuss Mr. Rogers

Sun Staff Reports

The director and music composer for the new film discussing the life and career of Fred Rogers, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, that opened Nov. 22, both grew up in Alameda. Marielle Heller directed and Nate Heller composed the music for the film.

First Congregational Church of Alameda invites the public to discuss the film with the Hellers' parents, Alameda residents Steven and Annie Heller, Sunday, Dec. 8, at 12:15 p.m. The transformational message of the film aims to foster more kindness, understanding and civility in every neighborhood, community and the world.

First Congregational Church of Alameda is located at 1912 Central Ave. A light lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. The discussion with interview clips begins at 12:30 p.m. The church is fully wheelchair accessible. Hearing aids for the hearing impaired and large print programs for the visually impaired will be made available.

For more information on the film see [www.abeautifulday.movie](http://www.abeautifulday.movie).

## Local Speaks Out for Justice in D.C.

Sun Staff Reports

An Alameda resident and student at Bishop O'Dowd High School, Abigail Gonzalez, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2019 Ignatius Family Teach-In for Justice. The annual gathering promotes social justice and solidarity by challenging people to participate in caring for others. The main talking points of the weekend were climate justice and immigration.

Gonzalez was chosen to speak at the conference about the inequities of available care for children from different socioeconomic backgrounds, especially in regard to treatment for asthma and other medical issues. She also spoke about the need for climate action.

Following her speech, Gonzalez, along with 2,000 colleagues, marched to the Capitol to speak to their local members of Congress. Gonzalez and her group visited the offices of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris and Representative Barbara Lee.

Having overcome asthma herself, two years ago Gonzalez started an organization called Attacking Asthma. She wrote articles and raised money for charities to support low-income families in Oakland and help them get the medical care they need. She raised money for the American



Courtesy photo

Abigail Gonzalez of Alameda (left) and Trinity Cooper spoke in the nation's capital about the need for justice in the American healthcare system.

Lung Association and Breathe California of the Bay Area. This work launched her passion for climate justice and inspired her

to take action at her school and in the surrounding community. For more information, visit [www.attackingasthma.org](http://www.attackingasthma.org).

## Traffic Lessons Parents Once Taught Children

Keeping kids safe, 1950s-style

Dennis Evanosky

Children are Alameda's most-valuable and most-vulnerable treasures. Too many of these treasures have to face danger on the way to and from school, as well as at school. While preparing to write this story, I read the tips and advice on Bike Walk Alameda's website. One piece of advice addressed making sure that young children cannot open doors leading to the outside of the house.

This tapped into some wonderful memories for me. I am a child of the 1950s. I was born in 1947 and it wasn't until 1961, when I entered high school that my parents joked that I could go outside on my own. Some years earlier, they ensured that neither I, nor my three siblings, would ever open a door to go outside, into the basement or up into the attic without permission. They did it with red fingernail polish. My mother painted a dot of this polish on the knobs of all the "forbidden doors."

My father gathered us all together inside the house at the front door and announced, "Do you see that polish?" We all nodded. "None of you are ever to touch a knob with that polish on it without me or your mother with you." He then sent us off to find all the other doors

with red dots of polish and had us report back.

We found the other three doors and one-by-one told my father where they were. We never, ever opened any of those doors without permission. "Heaven help any of you who disobey," my mother said, using one of her favorite stock phrases. (When my parents sold the home in the late 1980s, the real estate agent asked about those red dots.)

A second order from my parents also bears repeating. "Never get into a car with a stranger." I was so afraid that I would break this rule that I wouldn't even get into a car with someone I knew. This rule hit home when a "stranger" picked up a classmate at school. The grape vine went wild with gossip and rumors: He ran away, was kidnapped or even murdered. "Heaven help any of you who would do this," my mother fretted. The classmate returned home late in the evening safe and sound. His uncle had taken him to a Washington Senators (yes Senators, not Nationals) baseball game as a birthday surprise.

My parents also ingrained a third rule into us, "You are not to walk to and from school by yourself." We always obeyed this rule. We took "Heaven help you," quite seriously. "I feel better know-

*It wasn't until I entered high school that my parents joked I could go outside on my own.*

ing that you all walk together," my mother said. She would then recite all the Hansel and Gretel-like things that happen to children who walk alone. "You never know these days," she would say.

I was four or five years old when the city I grew up in painted crosswalks at most of the major intersections. My father walked us to the ones nearest our home and explained what they were. You are to stop at the curb, look left, then right. Do not step out if a car is coming. "Do you understand?" my father asked — his equivalent of "Heaven help you." We understood.

I was surprised at school that no one had told any of my classmates about the crosswalks. Not even a week later, a siren sounded while we were on the way home from school. We had a volunteer fire department in town. Whenever there was an emergency, sirens would sound: one for an ambulance, three for a fire. Only

★ **TRAFFIC:** Page 11

## Help Improve Survival Rates for Island Birds

Alameda Wildlife

Linda Carloni & Marjorie Powell  
 Part Two

Part one of this article ("Unpleasant News on Local Bird Population," Nov. 21) explored challenges facing local bird species in the face of rising global temperatures. This week's article explores what people can do help reverse declining bird populations.

**Work to decrease climate change**

Anything that limits climate change, like driving less, driving a hybrid or electric car or installing solar panels, is helpful, as it supports innovation in energy development and storage. The Audubon Society reports that by stabilizing carbon emissions and holding warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, 76 percent of vulnerable species will be better off, and nearly 150 species would no longer be vulnerable to extinction from climate change.

**Support parks**

Parks, natural marshes and wetlands protect birds that live or visit Alameda, so everything that maintains or expands parks is helpful. City Council recently asked the Park and Recreation Commission to review and prioritize work relating to completing and building new parks at Alameda Point.

One of the areas included in that consideration is "De-Pave Park," along the west side of Seaplane Lagoon that is now paved. Plans convert this area to a wetland. Continued protection of the habitat for the least tern colony at the Alameda Wildlife Reserve and the snowy plovers that winter on Crown Beach is also essential.

**Prevent birds from flying into windows**

While the city has taken steps to ensure that large windows in new buildings do not present risks to birds feeding near them or migrating over them, individual homeowners can also take precautions, like adding decals or otherwise making windows visible to birds, particularly large windows near outdoor plants on which birds feed.

**Use native plants**

Native plants in gardens provide food for many birds, including western bluebirds and all the hummingbirds that visit or live in Alameda. Use of native plants also lessens the need for watering, since many native plants are accustomed to the Island City's "dry season."

**Avoid plastics**

By eliminating single-use plastics, people can lessen the amount of plastic that pollutes streams, wetlands and the ocean, limiting harm to birds and the fish on which many birds rely.

**Avoid using harmful pesticides**

Many chemical products used to kill insects and rodents are harmful to birds directly, in addition to eliminating the insects they rely on for food.

The University of California Integrated Pest Management program provides extensive information on nonchemical options to try first, as well as on the toxicity levels of chemical treatments at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html>

**Support local conservation efforts**

One effective way to support birds locally is to help with habitat restoration. There are many groups involved in such efforts, including the local Golden Gate Audubon Society and its Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve committee. Visit <https://goldengate.audubon.org/volunteer> to see how to help.

Alamedans can also help keep an eye out for barn owls. If you spot one in Alameda, email the location, date and time the owl was spotted to [leoraalameda@att.net](mailto:leoraalameda@att.net).

Linda Carloni and Marjorie Powell are volunteers with the Golden Gate Audubon Society.



## Encinal Jets Stifle De Anza

Photo by Charles Penalver

After nine years of failing to make the section title match, the Encinal High School Jets secured a place in the North Coast Section championship with a victory over the De Anza High School Dons of Richmond last Friday. For full coverage courtesy of Encinal journalists, see page 5. Pictured at left: Junior Siave Pedro helps sack De Anza quarterback Darrion Davis for a loss.